



Captive Wildlife Pen Specifications & Transportation Standards

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This publication provides a summary of Wisconsin's laws which pertain to individuals who possess captive wildlife under a captive wild animal farm license, wild fur farm license, bird hunting preserve license, dog training or trial license, nonprofit educational exhibitors license. It is not a complete set of laws.

GENERAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Pens must be structurally sound, kept in good repair, protect the captive animals from injury, hold the animals securely and prevent other animals from getting inside.
2. Most animals **may not** be kept in any part of a building or home where people live unless receiving **temporary** health care, treatment or special handling.
3. Areas used for storing food or bedding must be free of trash, animal waste, weeds, insects, etc.
4. All surfaces in a pen, including houses, dens, shelters, fixtures and objects must be easily cleaned or removed or replaced when worn or dirty. Surfaces must be free of rust and jagged edges or sharp points.
5. If raised floors are used they must be constructed so the animals' feet cannot pass through the openings in the floor. If the floor is constructed of wire, a solid resting surface large enough to hold all the animals at the same time must be provided.
6. Animal and food wastes, bedding, debris, garbage, water, other fluids and wastes and dead animals must be frequently collected, removed and disposed of on a regular basis. The department recommends this be done on a daily basis.
7. Standing puddles of water must be drained or mopped up after cleaning or rain so the animals can stay dry.
8. Trash containers in food storage and preparation areas must be leak proof with tight fitting lids. The lids must remain on unless the caretaker is using them.
9. Supplies of food and bedding must be stored in a way that protects them from spoilage, contamination and pest infestation. You must be able to clean around and under the supplies. Foods requiring refrigeration must be stored in a refrigerator. All open food must be kept in a leak proof container with a tight fitting lid.
10. To promote the health of the captive animal an effective program for the control of insects, external parasites, birds and mammals that are pests needs to be developed and followed.

GENERAL PEN AND SHELTER REQUIREMENTS

1. Pens must be large enough to allow each captive wild animal to make normal position changes with plenty of freedom of movement.
2. All captive wild animals housed in the same enclosure must be compatible. Vicious or aggressive animals must be housed separately.
3. Outdoor facilities must provide shelter large enough to fit all animals inside comfortably.
4. Shelters need 4 sides, a roof and a floor and must provide the animals with protection from the cold, heat, sun, snow, wind and rain.
5. A wind and rain break must be provided at the shelter entrance.
6. Shelters need clean dry bedding material if the temperature falls below 50°F. Additional bedding is needed if temperatures fall below 35°F.
7. Metal barrels, cars, refrigerators, freezers and similar objects **may not** be used for shelters.
8. Shelters must be ventilated to provide for animal health and well being, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels and moisture. Ventilation can be provided by windows, doors, vents, fans or air conditioning.
9. Shade areas large enough to contain all the captive wild animals at one time must be provided to protect them from the sun.
10. *Outdoor shelter for captive wild birds:* May consist of natural vegetation, which provides protection from the sun, wind, rain and snow.

SPECIAL PEN REQUIREMENTS

The following migratory birds have special pen requirements.

WATERFOWL: All waterfowl bred, raised or held on a captive wild animal farm must be enclosed within a covered pen throughout the states open season for hunting waterfowl when written or oral notice is given to the licensee by the department or its agents.

MUTE SWAN: All mute swans shall be confined in a covered pen except as follows:

- Mute swans that are pinioned or sexually neutered by 4 weeks of age must be confined but do not require a covered pen.
- Mute swans that are both sexually neutered and pinioned by 4 weeks of age do not need to be confined.

RAPTORS (eagles, hawks, falcons & owls)

- ❖ Pens shall have a hutch or a shelter box, 2 or more perches of appropriate size for the raptor's feet and a water pan for drinking and bathing.
- ❖ When more than 2 birds are held in the same enclosure, the pen must be increased by 50% for each additional bird.
 - **Kestrel, burrowing owl, saw-whet owl and screech owl** pens must be a minimum of 36 square feet with a height of 7 feet for flighted birds and 9 square feet with a height of 3 feet for nonflighted birds.
 - **Buteos, horned owl, barn owl, barred owl and goshawks** pens must be a minimum of 72 square feet with a height of 7 feet for flighted birds and 36 square feet with a height of 7 feet for nonflighted birds.
 - **Eagles, vulture and osprey** pens must be a minimum of 400 square feet with a height of 9 feet for flighted birds and 120 square feet with a height of 9 ft for nonflighted birds.

General Pen and Shelter Requirements - Continued

Bear, cougar, bobcat, lynx, timber wolf, coyote, fox and fisher all have specific minimum pen requirements.

BEAR PENS

- ❖ A bear pen must be a minimum of 400 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 bear may be held in a 400 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 200 additional square feet is required for each additional bear.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 8 feet.
- ❖ A tank or pool with a minimum of 150 gallons of water must be provided when bears are not in hibernation.
- ❖ The space for the tank or pool of water must be in addition to the required minimum square feet of pen space.
- ❖ A perimeter fence (described later) is also required.

COUGAR PENS

- ❖ A cougar pen must be a minimum of 200 square feet.
- ❖ No more than one cougar may be held in a 200 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 100 additional square feet is required for each additional cougar.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 8 feet.
- ❖ Elevated resting surfaces large enough to comfortably hold all the occupants of the primary enclosure at the same time shall be provided.
- ❖ The resting surfaces must be resistant to moisture, and be able to be easily cleaned and sanitized, or easily replaced when dirty or worn.
- ❖ A perimeter fence (described later) is also required.

BOBCAT AND LYNX PENS

- ❖ Bobcat and lynx pens must be a minimum of 144 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 animals may be held in a 144 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 50 additional square feet is required for each additional animal.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 8 feet.
- ❖ Elevated resting surfaces large enough to comfortably hold all the occupants of the primary enclosure at the same time shall be provided.
- ❖ The resting surfaces must be resistant to moisture, and be able to be easily cleaned and sanitized, or easily replaced when dirty or worn.

TIMBER WOLF PENS

- ❖ A wolf pen must be a minimum of 300 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 wolves may be held in a 300 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 100 additional square feet is required for each additional wolf.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 6 feet.

COYOTE, FOX AND FISHER PENS

- ❖ These pens must be a minimum of 144 square feet for coyote and 120 square feet for fox and fisher.
- ❖ No more than 2 animals may be held in a minimum square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 50 additional square feet is required for each additional animal.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 6 feet.

EXISTING FACILITY COMPLIANCE EXTENSION: Facilities licensed prior to November 1, 2003 for bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, timber wolf, coyote, fox and fisher with approved pens have until November 1, 2008 to meet the pen standards listed above provided:

- ❖ An exercise enclosure is constructed that meets the minimum requirements of the required pen described above.
- ❖ The captive wild animals are provided access to this exercise enclosure on a regular basis, but not less than 4 hours every other day, except during periods of hibernation.

RACCOON PENS

- ❖ A raccoon pen must be a minimum of 80 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 raccoons may be held in an 80 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 16 additional square feet is required for each additional raccoon.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 8 feet.
- ❖ Raccoons must have continuous access to fresh water when outdoor temperature is above freezing and must be provided with a climbing apparatus.

BADGER PENS

- ❖ A badger pen must be a minimum of 100 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 badgers may be held in a 100 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 50 additional square feet is required for each additional badger.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 6 feet.

BEAVER PENS

- ❖ A beaver pen must be a minimum of 100 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 beaver may be held in a 100 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 20 additional square feet is required for each additional beaver.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 6 feet.
- ❖ A tank or pool with a minimum of 250 gallons of clean open water must be provided for up to 2 beaver. Each additional individual or pair of beaver must be provided a minimum of an additional 250 gallons of clean open water. The space for the tank or pool of water must be in addition to the required minimum square feet.

OTTER PENS

- ❖ An otter pen must be a minimum of 100 square feet.
- ❖ No more than 2 otter may be held in a 100 square foot pen.
- ❖ A minimum of at least 20 additional square feet is required for each additional otter.
- ❖ The pen height must be a minimum of 6 feet.
- ❖ A tank or pool with a minimum of 50 gallons of open water must be provided. The space for the tank or pool of water must be in addition to the required minimum square feet of pen area.

SPECIAL HANDLING

- ❖ You may confine captive wild animals outside of the required pen on a temporary basis for the purpose of health care or treatment, training, movement from one enclosure to another or special handling needs.
- ❖ Mothers with infants less than 6 months of age may be maintained together in primary enclosures that meet the floor area space required for an individual animal.

PERIMETER FENCE

- ❖ A perimeter fence that is at least 8 feet high must surround enclosures with bear and cougar held in an outdoor facility. Fences less than 8 feet high require written approval from the department.
- ❖ The fence must be built to prevent unauthorized people from having contact with the enclosed species.
- ❖ The fence must be far enough away from the enclosure to prevent physical contact with captive wild animals inside the enclosure. Fences less than 3 feet in distance from the enclosure require written approval from the department.
- ❖ A perimeter fence is not required if any of the following apply:
 - The outside walls of the primary enclosure are made of a sturdy, durable, solid material such as concrete, wood, metal, plastic or glass and are high enough and constructed in a manner that restricts contact with or entry by humans.
 - A natural barrier exists that restricts the enclosed species to the housing facility and protects them from contact with unauthorized humans that are outside the housing facility, and have been approved by the department surrounds the housing facility.

OPEN TOP PENS

- ❖ Bear pens with open tops must be a minimum of 1000 square feet. The walls must be a minimum of 8 feet in height with an additional 3 feet at the top slanted inward at a 30 to 45 degree angle.
- ❖ Cougar, bobcat*, lynx, timber wolf and coyote* pens with open tops must be a minimum of 1000 square feet. The walls must be a minimum of 10 feet in height with an additional 4 feet at the top slanted in at a 30 to 45 degree angle.
- ❖ **HOUND DOG TRAINING ENCLOSURES:** Large acreage enclosures with open tops used for coyote, fox and bobcat under the authority of a Hound Dog Training License (which does not authorize exhibiting or propagation), will not be required to meet the fence height requirements of this section for open top pens.
- ❖ Effective, **April 28, 2004**, it will be legal to use captive coyote, fox and bobcat for dog training purposes. Until new rules specific to hound dog training with these new species can be developed, large acreage hound dog training enclosures will need to meet the 6 ft. minimum pen height requirement for coyote and fox and the 8 ft. minimum pen height requirement for bobcat found on page 2 of this document in the General Pen and Shelter Requirements section.

PEN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION

When transporting captive wild animals the animals must be inside a compartment, transportation cage, carton or crate that meets the following requirements:

1. The enclosure must be strong enough to hold the animal securely and comfortably and to withstand the difficulties of transportation.
2. The enclosure must be large enough to allow every animal inside to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit comfortably and to lie normally.
3. The interior of the enclosure must have no sharp points or edges that could injure the animal inside.
4. The cage must not allow any part of the animals body to be put outside the cage in a way that could result in injury to itself, handlers or people or animals nearby.
5. It must be easy to quickly remove the animal in case of an emergency.
6. Unless the cage is permanently attached to a vehicle, handles or hand holds must be provided on the outside to prevent those handling the cage from coming in contact with the animal inside.
7. The enclosure must have adequate ventilation on at least 2 opposite walls.
8. The enclosure must have a solid bottom or if made of slats or wire mesh it must be constructed so the animals' legs and feet cannot pass through the slats or holes.
9. Enclosures must be positioned in the vehicle in a way that protects the animals from the elements.
10. Transportation enclosures must be cleaned before every use. If the animal is in transit for more than 24 hours the enclosure must be cleaned to prevent the soiling of the animal by body waste. If it becomes necessary to remove the captive wild animal from the enclosure in order to clean, or to move the animal to another enclosure, this procedure shall be completed in a way that safeguards the animal from injury and prevents escape.
11. When removing animals from an enclosure care must be taken to prevent them from injuries or escaping.
12. Animals transported in the same enclosure must be of the same species and be compatible.
13. Overly aggressive or vicious animals must be transported individually.
14. You should carry a copy of your license or receipts during transportation to show you are authorized to possess the animals you are transporting.

EXHIBITION OF CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS

Captive wild animals that require a license to possess may be exhibited ONLY under a Captive Wild Animal Farm License, Nonprofit Educational Exhibitors License or Nonresident Temporary Exhibitors License, and provided the following pen requirements are also met:

1. Animals must be confined to pens that meet the specifications outlined in this pamphlet unless otherwise allowed in this section.
2. Animal and food waste must be removed from enclosures and under enclosures as necessary to prevent buildup.
3. Enclosures and food and water containers must be cleaned and sanitized at least once every 2 weeks and more often if necessary to prevent a buildup of dirt, debris, animal and food waste and other disease risks.
4. Gravel, sand, grass, etc. in pens runs and outdoor housing areas should be cleaned by removing the contaminated material as needed to prevent odors, diseases, insects and pest infestations.

5. You must display your CWF license at the place of exhibit.
6. Each pen needs to be labeled with the proper common name, in English, of the animal confined in the pen.
7. Bear, cougar, badger, bobcat, lynx, timber wolf, coyote, fox and fisher pens must be surrounded on all sides where the public can approach by a substantial guard rail. Guard rails needs to be at least 3 feet high and well supported. Fencing must be at least 3 feet from the pens and the mesh must be less than 6 inches square.
8. Pens, guard rails and fencing must be kept in good repair at all times and all gates and doors must be kept securely locked.
9. Harmful wild animals (bear and cougar) can only be exhibited at the location authorized on the license. Special written approval is required to exhibit at any other location.
10. Bear, cougar, bobcat, lynx, timber wolf, coyote, fox and fisher over 3 months old and any venomous snakes cannot be used in interactive sessions.
11. If using animals for interactive sessions, must be licensed to exhibit by USDA under 9 CFR 2.1 and follow the guidelines found in 9 CFR 2.131.
Note: CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations.

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE PAMPHLETS

The following information pamphlets may be obtained by contacting the DNR Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing:

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| • <u>Captive Wild Animal Farm</u> | PUB-CS-17 |
| • <u>Wild Fur Farm</u> | PUB-CS-18 |
| • <u>Bird Hunting Preserve</u> | PUB-CS-19 |
| • <u>Pen Specification & Transportation Standards</u> | PUB-CS-20 |
| • <u>Deer Farm Fencing</u> | PUB-CS-21 |
| • <u>Dog Training & Trialing</u> | PUB-WM-444 |

Captive Wildlife Laws

You may purchase a copy of State Statute Chapter 169 Captive Wildlife and Natural Resources Administrative Code Chapter NR 16 Captive Wildlife by contacting Document Sales 202 South Thornton Avenue, P.O. Box 7840, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7840, 608-266-3358; or on the internet at the Revisor of Statutes Bureau, <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html>.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



This publication is available in braille, audio cassette, large print or computer format upon request. To order, call 608-266-8204.